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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,646	06/19/2001	Robert Hall	2001-0323	2637

7590

05/06/2005

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EXAMINER

PARTON, KEVIN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/884,646

Applicant(s)

HALL, ROBERT

Examiner

Kevin Parton

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 34-35 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 01/31/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Please see the following reasons and the grounds of rejection below.
2. On pages 10-11, the applicant argues that the reference to Greenstein fails to teach a system wherein an email is sent with an address comprising a common address portion to identify the recipient and a channel identifier portion to verify that the message is authorized. The argument is not persuasive because the reference shows in figure 3 and in column 4, lines 34-37 that a passcode is required as part of the addressing function. This passcode is then used to verify that the message is authorized. This passcode is analogous to a "channel identifier" and is a required portion of the address in order for the message to be sent and received. The address book of a sender even stores the passcodes to be inserted automatically as part of an address to save time and effort of the sender.
3. Regarding claim 18, the applicant argues that the reference to Greestein fails to teach the closing of a channel. The argument is not persuasive because the changing or removal of a specific passcode would render that channel closed.
4. On page 13, the applicant argues that the combination of Greenstein and Birrell is inappropriate because the art does not suggest the desirability of the combination. The argument is not persuasive because of the motivation stated in the previous Office Action and restated below. It is commonly known in the art to provide email services via

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a markup language such as html. Any email system benefits from this type of implementation because of the ease of use on multiple platforms.

5. All further arguments are not persuasive for at least the reasons shown above.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 34 and 35 are allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 16-18, 24-26, 32, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692).

9. Regarding claim 16, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches a system for presenting a message to a recipient in a network, the message having an address for sending the message from a sender to the recipient (figure 3) wherein the address comprises a common address portion that indicates the identity of the recipient in the network and a channel identifier portion for verifying that the message is authorized (column 4, lines 34-37) with means for transmitting to the recipient for simultaneous display, information in the message and an identification of at least one correspondent

from whom messages containing the channel identifier portion of the address are authorized (column 3, lines 45-51).

10. Regarding claim 17, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claim 16. He further teaches providing at least one function for the recipient to manipulate the identification of correspondents (column 2, lines 44-47).

11. Regarding claim 18, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claim 17. He further teaches means wherein the at least one function includes a function for closing a channel identified by the identifier portion of the address (column 2, lines 30-34, 44-47).

12. Regarding claims 24 and 32, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claims 16 and 25, respectively. He further teaches means wherein the channel identifier portion is a substantially unguessable portion of the address (column 2, lines 30-35).

13. Regarding claim 25, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches a system for authenticating mail sent through a network from a first correspondent to a second correspondent with means for:

- a. Assigning a channel identifier for use by the first correspondent in sending messages addressed to the second correspondent (column 2, lines 25-26). Note that passcodes are equivalent to channels as one passcode can apply to a group of senders.
- b. Storing the channel identifier in an open channel database (column 2, lines 44-47).

- c. Receiving through the network from the first correspondent a message addressed using a modified address of the second correspondent wherein the channel identifier is added to an address identifying the second correspondent in the network (figure 1; figure 3; column 4, lines 34-37).
- d. Verifying that the channel identifier in the modified address is in the open channel database (figure 1, element 106).
- e. Transmitting through the network to the second correspondent for simultaneous display information derived from the message and information derived from the open channel database (figure 1; column 3, lines 45-50).

14. Regarding claim 26, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claim 25. He further teaches means wherein the information derived from the message includes at least part of a non-address portion of a header of the message (figure 1; column 3, lines 45-50). Note that the passcode is used and may be changed.

15. Regarding claim 33, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches a system for presenting a message to a recipient in a network, the message having an address to send the message from a sender to the recipient (figure 3) wherein the address comprises a common address portion that indicates the identity of the recipient in the network and a channel identifier portion for verifying that the message is authorized for delivery to the recipient (column 4, lines 34-37) with means for transmitting to the

recipient for simultaneous display, an email administration pane and a channel administration pane (column 2, lines 30-47).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 1-9, 12-14, 19-23, and 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) in view of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551).

18. Regarding claim 1, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches a system for handling messages transmitted to and from a plurality of clients over a network, the messages having addresses attached to them, comprising:

- a. A network interface for communicating with the clients using a network protocol (column 3, lines 31-35). The mail server is on a network.
- b. A mail server for sending and receiving messages over the network (column 3, lines 31-35, 41-42).
- c. A channels assignment manager for assigning channel identifiers to be used as parts of the addresses (column 2, lines 25-35; column 4, lines 34-37).
- d. A channels gateway for determining whether messages are authorized messages based upon channel identifiers (column 3, lines 45-49).

Although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose specifically means wherein the server communicates with clients by transferring a markup language.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692), as evidenced by Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551).

In an analogous art, Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) discloses a system for providing electronic mail to a client via a network and a web browser wherein the server communicates with clients by transferring a markup language (column 3, lines 17-20; column 5, lines 20-22; column 12, lines 16-18).

Given the teaching of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) by employing the use of a markup language for communication. Web-based email is very common and used by many large corporations as well as smaller networks. Delivering mail via a web browser allows any client to access it regardless of platform and display the information sent in markup language. Applying the functions of Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) on a web based email delivery system is an obvious modification to the system of Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692). This benefits the users of the system by allowing them to access verified email from any workstation that has a web browser.

19. Regarding claims 2, 20 and 28, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) (as applied to claims 1, 16, and 27, respectively) shows substantial

features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the network protocol is a protocol for rendering using a markup language rendering tool.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692), as evidenced by Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551).

In an analogous art, Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) discloses a system for providing electronic mail to a client via a network and a web browser wherein the network protocol is a protocol for rendering using a markup language rendering tool (column 3, lines 17-20; column 5, lines 20-22; column 12, lines 16-18).

Given the teaching of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) by employing a network protocol for rendering using a markup language rendering tool. This benefits the system by allowing users to access mail from any machine with a web browser.

20. Regarding claims 3, 21, and 29, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) (as applied to claims 2, 20, and 28, respectively) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the markup language rendering tool is a browser.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692), as evidenced by Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551).

In an analogous art, Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) discloses a system for providing electronic mail to a client via a network wherein the markup language rendering tool is a browser (column 13, lines 26-28).

Given the teaching of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) by employing the use of a web browser. As noted above, this benefits the system by allowing users to access mail from any machine with a web browser.

21. Regarding claims 4, 22, and 30, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) (as applied to claims 2, 20, and 28, respectively) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the network protocol is selected from the group of protocols consisting of WAP and HTTP.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692), as evidenced by Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551).

In an analogous art, Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) discloses a system for providing electronic mail to a client via a network wherein the network protocol is selected from the group of protocols consisting of WAP and HTTP (column 3, lines 17-20).

Given the teaching of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) by employing the use of either WAP or HTTP.

As noted above, this benefits the system by allowing users to access mail from any machine with a web browser.

22. Regarding claims 5, 23, and 31, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) (as applied to claims 1, 19, and 27, respectively) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the markup language is a language selected from a group consisting of XML, HTML, SGML, and WML.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692), as evidenced by Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551).

In an analogous art, Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) discloses a system for providing electronic mail to a client via a network wherein the markup language is a language selected from a group consisting of XML, HTML, SGML, and WML (column 3, lines 17-20).

Given the teaching of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) by employing the use of one of these protocols. As noted above, this benefits the system by allowing users to access mail from any machine with a web browser.

23. Regarding claim 6, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claim 1. He further teaches a message store for storing the messages (column 2, lines 50-51; figure 1, element 116).

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24. Regarding claim 7, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claim 6. He further teaches means wherein messages received by the mail server from the network are filtered by the channels gateway before being stored in the message store (figure 1, element 106).

25. Regarding claim 8, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claim 7. He further teaches means wherein the channel processing server performs a preliminary function on the messages before they are stored in the message store (figure 1, element 106).

26. Regarding claim 9, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) (as applied to claim 8) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the preliminary function is stripping channel identifiers from the addresses.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692).

A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) by removing the passcodes (channel identifiers) from the incoming messages. This benefits the system by allowing users to see just the address of the sender for later use.

27. Regarding claim 12, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claim 1. He further teaches a personal channel agent for administering channels (column 2, lines 25-26).

28. Regarding claim 13, Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) teaches all the limitations as applied to claim 12. he further teaches means wherein the network interface comprises at least one channel control page for transmission to and from the client allowing the client to access the personal channel agent (column 2, lines 25-35). Please note that the client must be presented a page for administering the channel information in the reference. This information is then provided to the server.

29. Regarding claim 14, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) (as applied to claim 13) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the network interface further comprises at least one email administration page for transmission to and from the client.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692), as evidenced by Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551).

In an analogous art, Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) discloses a system for providing electronic mail to a client via a network with means wherein the network interface further comprises at least one email administration page for transmission to and from the client (column 2, lines 58-60).

Given the teaching of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) by employing the sending of an email administration page. This benefits the system by allowing users to manage email on their computers.

30. Regarding claims 19 and 27, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) (as applied to claims 16 and 25, respectively) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting using a markup language.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692), as evidenced by Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551).

In an analogous art, Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) discloses a system for providing electronic mail to a client via a network and a web browser wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting using a markup language (column 3, lines 17-20; column 5, lines 20-22; column 12, lines 16-18)

Given the teaching of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) by employing the use of a markup language for communication. Web-based email is very common and used by many large corporations as well as smaller networks. Delivering mail via a web browser allows any client to access it regardless of platform and display the information sent in markup language. Applying the functions of Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) on a web based email delivery system is an obvious modification to the system of Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692). This benefits the users of the system by allowing them to access verified email from any workstation that has a web browser.

31. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) and Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Liu et al. (USPN 6,760,752).

32. Regarding claim 10, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) and Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) (as applied to claim 8) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the preliminary function is verifying digital signatures contained in the messages.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) and Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), as evidenced by Liu et al. (USPN 6,760,752).

In an analogous art, Liu et al. (USPN 6,760,752) discloses a system for the secure delivery of electronic mail wherein the preliminary function is verifying digital signatures contained in the messages

Given the teaching of Liu et al. (USPN 6,760,752), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) and Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) by employing the verification of digital signatures. This benefits the system by ensuring that the sender of the message is who they claim to be. This increases the security of the system and the ability to keep out unwanted senders.

33. Regarding claim 11, although the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) and Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) (as applied to claim 8) shows substantial

features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the preliminary function is decrypting the message.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) and Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551), as evidenced by Liu et al. (USPN 6,760,752).

In an analogous art, Liu et al. (USPN 6,760,752) discloses a system for the secure delivery of electronic mail wherein the preliminary function is decrypting the message

Given the teaching of Liu et al. (USPN 6,760,752), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Greenstein (USPN 6,266,692) and Birrell et al. (USPN 6,185,551) by employing the decryption of messages. This benefits the system by increasing security and ensuring that the message is only viewed by the appropriate recipient.

Conclusion

34. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

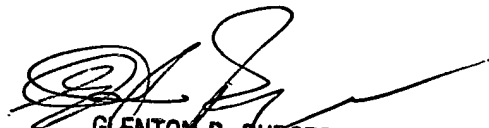
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Parton whose telephone number is (571)272-3958. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571)272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin Parton
Examiner
Art Unit 2153

ksp


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